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ADM. TURNER PICKED  
BY CARTER TO HEAD  
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

NOMINEE IS A NATO COMMANDER

2 Men Were Annapolis Classmates  
—No Sign Officer Will Meet Kind  
of Opposition Sorensen Did

By CHARLES MOHR

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 — President Carter nominated today Adm. Stansfield Turner, who has made a reputation as a military analyst, to be Director of Central Intelligence.

Admiral Turner, 53 years old, who is commander of allied forces in Southern Europe with headquarters in Naples, spent part of his career in weapons systems analysis and the study of strategic deterrence. Mr. Carter and Admiral Turner were classmates at the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Turner graduating 25th in the class and the President 59th.

However, the President told his Cabinet today, "I never knew him" at Annapolis. He added that Admiral Turner "was so far ahead of us" in accomplishments as a midshipman "that we never considered him a competitor or even a peer."

Mr. Carter, in a burst of warm praise, said of the admiral, "I have never known a better military person." The President added that he was someone who "in the future could be the next George Marshall," a reference to the Army Chief of Staff in World War II who later served as Secretary of State and of Defense.

## Panel May Take Its Time

Several sources on Capitol Hill said that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which will pass on the nomination before the full Senate votes on confirmation, would probably "take its time," partly because Admiral Turner's views were little known among senators. However, there was no indication that the nomination would encounter the kind of serious opposition that scuttled Mr. Carter's original selection of Theodore C. Sorensen to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Sorensen's nomination ran into trouble partly because some senators thought that his liberal, intellectual background would tend to isolate him in the agency. Mr. Carter's military choice may be more popular with conservative senators.

In his role as Director of Central Intelligence, Admiral Turner will also coordinate intelligence reaching the President from other agencies. If confirmed, he will be the 10th C.I.A. director since the agency was created in 1947 and the fourth who has been a military officer. By law,

his deputy director will have to be a civilian.

## Article on Naval Balance

An article by Admiral Turner called "The Naval Balance: Not Just a Numbers Game" in the January issue of the quarterly Foreign Affairs will probably be widely read in Washington in the next few days by people seeking a clue to his thinking.

In the article he suggested that a meaningful comparison of the naval power of the United States and the Soviet Union could best be made not by counting ships and planes, but by assessing to what degree the American force was capable of carrying out its major missions.

He said that the ability to influence third powers by American naval presence could be diluted by overstated warnings of the Soviet threat and called for "exercising care in our public discussions."

"A doomsday picture convincingly drawn for a Congressional budgetary committee may negatively influence other nation's perceptions of our naval effectiveness," he wrote.

Admiral Turner also wrote that "there is latitude for varying acceptable degrees of naval balance," adding, "The degree of acceptability depends on judgments which transcend the power of military men."

However, in the article Admiral Turner also suggested that, while the United States retained a generally favorable naval balance, the margin of safety was being reduced. He cited United States capability in antisubmarine warfare as an example.

The White House spokesman, Jody

Powell, said today that the President was convinced that Admiral Turner would not bring what a reporter called a parochial and pro-Navy outlook to a position that required a balanced assessment of the strength and intentions of a potential adversary.

Admiral Turner has no public record indicating how strongly he feels about the need for closer control of C.I.A. covert operations and the prevention of a repetition of past abuses and illegalities by the agency.

However, Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat of Delaware who is a member of the intelligence committee, said, "Carter has made that commitment to me, and I feel sure that Turner would fulfill it."

The Senator added "I'm going to want to take a look" at Admiral Turner's opinions and qualifications but that he saw no problem about confirmation.

Another committee member, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, Democrat of Illinois, said that he was "unaware of any problems" that could block confirmation.

Admiral Turner visited Senate office buildings today, speaking with several members of the committee. Senator Stevenson said that he was "impressed by him" and got the impression that the admiral had "demonstrated a great deal of independence" in his military career and was "something of an iconoclast."

The admiral flew back from Naples for a conversation with the President at the White House last Thursday. Sources said that Mr. Carter spoke about the nomination that same day with Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, the chairman of the intelligence committee, and that over the weekend other key Senators were notified by telephone of the nomination.